

**Coordinating Subcommittee for  
Division of Developmental Disabilities  
Meeting Summary  
September 4, 2012**

The Coordinating Subcommittee for Intellectual Disabilities Services met September 4, 2012, at AIDT Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Courtney W. Tarver, DD Associate Commissioner and Chair.

Courtney W. Tarver, Chair

**Voting Members Present**

Steve Lafreniere, DMH/DD Representative  
Jeff Williams, DMH/DD Representative  
Anne Penney, Alabama Council Representative  
Jim Dill, Alabama Council Representative  
Earl Brightwell, MR/DD Representative  
Jo Poates, MR/DD Representative  
Bill Hoehle, ACE/Arc Representative  
Wallace Davis (DeAnna Ferguson), Other Provider Representative  
Murray Townsend, The Arc of Alabama Representative  
Darren Morris, People First of Alabama Representative  
Amanda Ward (Tom Holmes), The Arc of Alabama Consumer Representative  
Lou Vick, ACE/Arc Representative

**Visitors**

Karen Stokes, Bill Hoehle, Michael Feore, Cassandra Odom, Anna McConnell, Gary Edwards, Donna Basden Akins, George Neal, Mike Martin, Patti Martin, Ellen Gillespie, Lee Conner, LaGretta Ratliff, Barbara Brunson, John VanCamp, Ree'King-Holley, Carolyn Little, Glendie Davis, Raytheon K. Scott, Byron White, Daphne Rosalis, Audrey McShan, Anthony Couch, and Andy Slate,

**Recorder**

Shirley Hicks

**Approval of August 14, 2012, Meeting Minutes**

The minutes will reflect Jeff Williams was not present at the August 14, 2012 meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Penney to approve the minutes as modified and the motion was seconded by Mr. Brightwell. The motion passed.

**Agenda**

The following items were added to the Agenda: 1) Waiting List and 2) Local Match. A motion was made by Mr. Brightwell to approve the agenda as modified. Mr. Holmes seconded the motion, and it passed.

### **Supported Employment Work Group**

Mr. White reported that the revised supported employment work group recommendations letter dated August 22, 2012, was sent out. The revised recommendations addressed the non-loss of an individual's slot at day habilitation and the 4-hour per day prevocational issue.

The following individuals currently serve on the supported employment work group:

Susan Klingel	Cindy Haber
Darren Morris	Deanna Ferguson
Tina Dortch	Ellen Gillespie
Gary Edwards	Linda Hames
Myra Jones	Karen Stokes
Melodie Crawford	Murray Townsend
Patti Martin	Daphne Rosalis
Sara Haynes	Courtney Tarver
Byron White	Jeff Williams
Jessica Hales	Robert Wynn

The workgroup outlined the following items for future discussions and planning:

- Look at job development and job coaching services in the waiver amendment;
- Address slot security;
- IRBI/residential rates for group home staffing for individuals not interested in participating in day programs;
- Retirement options for consumers;
- Case management/how to phrase "do you want to work" set of questions and explain supported employment;
- Provider support/how to address empty slots as people begin moving into the community and requiring less support at the worksite;

Mr. Tarver pointed out that Alabama is listed as one of the worst states in the country for supported employment. Planning is being made to make sure that accurate data is being gathered on this, and stakeholders' input will be sought to capture the full picture on employment.

### **Waivers Update**

Ms. Rosalis gave an update on the waivers. DD is moving forward with amending both waivers. Under the Living at Home Waiver, self-directed services will be added along with the 300% financial eligibility piece. The budget analysis under self-directed services also needs to be completed. Individuals under self-directed services will have control over their own budget. This will give them the authority to buy and negotiate services.

The subcommittee held discussions regarding the budget analysis, workman's compensation insurance, and whether or not workman's compensation will be required. It was pointed out that self-directed services are constructed in a way

where family members are supporting the individuals. It was suggested that the self-directed workgroup and family members look at this and make recommendations. Mr. Tarver reminded everyone that self-directed services are for the individuals to direct their own services. Input from providers would be limited as this service is managed and directed by individuals and families so their input drives this service. Mr. Hoehle suggested that service providing agencies rather than just family members be involved in self-directed services so that family members will not end up paying sub-market wages to cover all costs. It will be advantageous to look at a competitive self-directed services rate comparable to provider rates. Mr. Edwards related Senior Services has the budget instrument, AFENSA.

### **Associate Commissioner Report**

Mr. Tarver gave a brief overview of the Associate Commissioner's report. The distributed report contains the significant events he participated in since the last subcommittee's meeting. He was pleased to visit the Project SEARCH sites which included two groups of students from public schools in the Montgomery and Shelby counties' school systems. He toured the area where students will be working. This is a project that he hopes will expand. Thanks were given to Mr. White, the supported employment workgroup, and VR for making this endeavor possible. Mr. Tarver mentioned that he had attended the ADAP Public Hearing on DD issues and saw DD subcommittee members among those present who gave input. Individuals expressed a wide array of needs, and ADAP gave a timeline to respond to the needs that were expressed by the individuals. Mr. Tarver expounded on the person-centered planning training that was conducted during the Health and Human Services Departments' Conference at AUM since the last meeting and gave thanks to Mr. Jeff Williams, Ms. Willodean Ash, Mr. Byron White, and others for their hard work on that conference. Mr. Tarver noted he has been meeting with other agencies and will plan to meet periodically regarding bridging the gulf between DD and other stakeholders.

The waiting list by county will be distributed to the subcommittee periodically.

### **Autism Update**

Mrs. McConnell updated the group on autism. The Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Council (AIACC) has been established for several years, and its representation is made up of state agency heads, autism treatment and advocacy groups, legislators, self-advocates, and others with DMH being the lead agency. Nominations for vacancies on that Autism Council are due. She is in the process of assisting providers and families with the autism website link; looking at recommendations regarding issues in autism; and reviewing the different subcommittees under the Autism Council. The Annual Autism Conference will be held in Tuscaloosa, March 1, 2013. The Autism Insurance Reform will be effective October 1, 2012 (ages 9 and under can get up to \$60,000 in care). For all ages, there will be up to 100 sessions allowed.

### **Local Match**

Mr. Tarver informed the group that the division has started receiving local dollars. The division of developmental disabilities is still working through some details and will provide a process to providers. The division does not intend to use the local dollars for expansion of services. They will be used to assist providers with recent rates cuts due to proration. He explained that Mr. Slate pulled the numbers on what the budgets have been like over the past years. The distributed copies of this information which included service rates for 2013 and residential rate change percentages from FY'02-FY'13. The group held a discussion regarding the distributed information.

Mr. Tarver continued with the explanation of the local match dollars. The local dollars will be place in a state match pool. If it turns out that the division needs a Medicaid amendment to use local dollars then the dollars will be returned to the providers. Providers will not get their money back immediately. The priority for local dollars will be to apply it toward the general fund and residential services. All of this will be detailed in writing. Basically, the budget will be maintained as to what was appropriated. When the division receives anything above the appropriated budget, the division will take the local dollars and spread it across the board.

The group held a discussion about what if providers do not get their local dollars back. Mr. Tarver noted if the division receives too little of a contribution for local dollars, there is a possibility that providers won't get anything back.

Another discussion was held regarding how and why would local government agencies help if they will not get any of their dollars back. Dr. Dill thought the purpose of local dollars was to offset the deficit. Mr. Tarver agreed that that is how it was brought to his attention for use by agencies to reduce further contract cuts and potential raise available funds if all budgeted state dollars are realized. Mrs. Klingel noted they want to help, but they do not want to help if they are risking a loss. Mr. Tarver understands and recognizes the potential impact on local match dollars if these funds are not a benefit locally to the degree they are currently utilized.

### **Budget Status Report**

Mr. Tarver related he will continue to provide a budget status report. A budget decision has not been made about this division yet. He encouraged everyone to vote September 18, 2012. If they are planning on attending the Disability Conference, they can vote absentee. Mr. Conner advised people not to wait until the last minute to vote absentee. Mrs. Klingel indicated the Arc of Madison County is working with coalitions to remind people to vote.

### **Announcements**

- The group was reminded about the Disability Conference to be held September 17-18, 2012, at Perdido Beach Resort. Individuals were reminded to get together by the end of the Disability Conference

potentially to strategize if by then there are updates about the potential referendum election regarding the exiting such as any potential poll results.

- Mr. Lafreniere announced that Early Intervention has two vacant positions. All inquiries should be sent to him.
- Mr. Lafreniere noted that ADRS is soliciting comments regarding their recent early intervention audits. The deadline for comments is September 7, 2012. A discussion was initiated by Mrs. Klingel regarding family assessments being included in the contracts. Mr. Lafreniere related training for outcome based assessment will be given at no additional costs. Manuals will be available. ADRS staff recommended they use something different.
- It was requested that Call Center updates be provided to the DD Subcommittee periodically.

**Meeting Adjourned**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held October 2, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the AIDT Center.



Courtney W. Tarver, Chair  
Associate Commissioner  
Division of Developmental Disabilities



Shirley H. Hicks, Recorder